

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCCT-01 USSS-00 SY-04 IO-04 SSO-00

NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 SAM-01 AID-05 DRC-01 /063 W

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FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3568

INFO ARAB SUMMIT CONFERENCE PRIORITY 05

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 5166

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR XF MO

SUBJ: ARAB SUMMIT: SECURITY MEASURES AGAINST PALESTINIANS

1. INTERNATIONAL NEWS AGENCIES ARE CARRYING STORY THAT GOM HAS ARRESTED GROUP OF PALESTINIAN INFILTRATORS WHO SAID TO HAVE ENTERED MOROCCO FOR PURPOSE OF ATTEMPTING TO ASSASSINATE KING HUSSEIN DURING ARAB SUMMIT. MOROCCAN DENIAL HAS ALSO BEEN REPORTED BY BBC (BUT WE HAVE NOT HEARD OFFICIAL DENIAL DIRECTLY). KING HASSAN IS RUMORED TO HAVE CALLED IN ARAB REPRESENTATIVES ABOUT THIS ISSUE LATE OCT 22. INFO MIN BENHIMA GAVE PRESS CONFERENCE MORNING OF OCT 23, BUT WAS NOT ASKED ABOUT THE REPORT NOR DID HE TAKE INITIATIVE TO ADDRESS IT.

2. MEANWHILE GOM IS CONTINUING EXTREMELY TIGHT SECURITY MEASURES. THESE INCLUDE ROUNDUP OF SOME LOCAL PALESTINIANS. A LOCAL USIS EMPLOYEE OF PALESTINIAN ORIGIN, FOR EXAMPLE, WAS TAKEN INTO CUSTODY PRIOR TO OPENING OF ARAB FORUMS' CONFERENCE AND, DESPITE EMBASSY'S INTERVENTIONS ON HIS BEHALF, IS BEING HELD INCOMMUNICADO IN TANGIER. SECURITY WITHIN HILTON HOTEL CONFERENCE SITE INVOLVES NUMEROUS CHECKPOINTS, ELECTRONIC SWEEPING WITH SOPHISTICATED NEW SECURITY EQUIPMENT OF ALL PERSONS ENTERING, AS WELL AS PHYSICAL SEARCH

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INCLUDING MINUTE EXAMINATION OF FOUNTAIN PENS AND LIGHTERS.

3. COMMENT: WHILE GOM'S CONFERENCE SECURITY IS USUALLY VERY TIGHT IN ANY CASE, IT IS PULLING OUT ALL STOPS IN THIS REGARD AND IS PLAINLY JITTERY. GOM CAN BE EXPECTED TO BE ESPECIALLY SENSITIVE TO POTENTIAL DISRUPTIVE EFFECTS ANY PLOTS COULD HAVE ON EFFORTS TO BRING ABOUT PLO - HUSSEIN RECONCILIATION, OF WHICH KING HASSAN HAS BEEN ONE OF MAIN PROMOTERS.
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